

REMARKS

The present application has been amended in response to the Examiner's Office Action to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant, by the amendments presented above, has made a concerted effort to present claims which clearly define over the prior art of record, and thus to place this case in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,347,979 (Drill) in view of United States Patent No. 5,902,173 (Tanaka). Each of the independent claims have been amended to specifically claim that the wear ring includes at least one inlet, at least one peripheral channel in the wear ring, the inlet being in communication with the channel, and a plurality of outlets in communication with the at least one peripheral channel in the wear ring, injecting the slurry into the inlet such that the slurry goes into the peripheral channel in the wear ring, exits the outlets, and contacts the polishing pad. This is neither claimed nor suggested by the prior art of record. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejections be withdrawn.

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner cited Drill '979 and Tanaka '173. Drill '979 discloses slurry dispense holes which extend through the wear ring, and Tanaka '173 discloses a groove formed on the wafer holder unit and a plurality of holes for dispensing the slurry. However, neither reference discloses a peripheral channel within the wear ring, and that a plurality of outlets are provided in communication with the peripheral channel.

Serial No.: 10/607,116

Art Unit: 3723

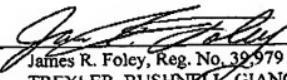
Page 4

Should the present claims not be deemed adequate to effectively define the patentable subject matter, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney of record to discuss the claims in an effort to reach an agreement toward allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 25, 2004

By:


James R. Foley, Reg. No. 39,979
TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI,
BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.
105 West Adams Street, 36th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603-6299
Tel: (312) 704-1890

729006 WPD

Serial No.: 10/607,116
Art Unit: 3723
Page 5